

As you no doubt know, I'm writing you as part of the organized protest against Sinclair Broadcasting airing an anti-Kerry film in the midst of a heated election campaign. What if Jim Hightower or Mario Cuomo owned 62 media outlets and decided to air Fahrenheit 9/11 on October 29?

Surely you see the inherent unfairness of Sinclair's decision and the disservice it does to a civil debate of the issues.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them.

Please be of good conscience and intervene in this matter. It is your sworn duty.